

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 141208Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 536

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9225

PARIS FOR SISCO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS

SUBJ: MRS MEIR'S KNESSET ADDRESS

REF: TEL AVIV 9204

1. IN ADDITION TO POINTS COVERED IN REFTEL, MAIN ELEMENTS OF MRS MEIR'S NOVEMBER 13 KNESSET SPEECH WERE AS FOLLOWS.

2. MRS MEIR SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW TO AN "IMAGINARY AND FICTITIOUS LINE CALLED THE LINE OF OCTOBER 22." AS SHE HAD TOLD U.S. GOI IN FRAMEWORK OF DISENGAGEMENT AND SEPARATION OF FORCES WOULD AGREE TO MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL, ISRAEL WITHDRAWING FROM HER POSITIONS WEST OF CANAL TO EAST BANK AND EGYPTIAN ARMY WITHDRAWING FROM EAST BANK TO WESTERN SIDE.

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3. AS REGARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, SHE

SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN APPREHENSIVE THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD RAISE DIFFICULTIES BUT SHE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES IF GOE OBSERVES SPIRIT OF AGREEMENT AS STRICTLY AS GOI DOES.

4. IN DEBATE FOLLOWING HER SPEECH MRS MEIR REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM CAIRO-SUEZ HIGHWAY, AND THAT NO FOOD OR WATER WOULD GET THROUGH TO SUEZ, OR TO THE THIRD ARMY, IF ISRAEL DID NOT GET PRISONERS BACK.

5. MRS MEIR SAID THAT IDF WAS WELL DEPLOYED ON BOTH FRONTS AND, IF GOE AND SARG RESUME HOSTILITIES IDF WOULD OVERCOME THE AGGRESSORS. BUT CEASEFIRE AND PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE WERE PREFERABLE TO ANY FURTHER VICTORY.

6. ISRAEL WAS NOT FACED WITH STRUGGLE OVER FUTURE BOUNDARIES AND CONDITIONS OF PEACE. ISRAEL HAD LEARNED FROM WAR IMPORTANCE OF DEPTH AND DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. QUOTE WE HAVE NOT LEARNED THAT WE MUST RETURN TO THE LINE OF JUNE 4, 1967, WHICH TEMPT OUR NEIGHBORS TO AGGRESSION. EN QUOTE. ANYONE WHO BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE WEAK AND AFRAID AFTER THIS WAR WAS MISTAKEN.

7. COMMENTING ON STATE OF GOI-US RELATIONS, MRS MEIR SAID THAT HER RECENT TALKS HAVE BEEN "FRIENDLY, CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL" ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN IDENTICAL ATTITUDES.

8. DURING SUBSEQUENT DEBATE CHAIRMAN KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE HAIM ZADOK, ANSWERING OPPOSITION'S ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES MADE STRONG DEFENSE OF ISRAEL-EGYPT SIX POINT AGREEMENT. ZADOK STATED THAT ISRAEL'S CHOICE WAS BETWEEN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT AND NOT SIGNING ANY AGREEMENT AT ALL. FAILURE TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO STOPPING PROCESS LEADING TO POSSIBLE PEACE SETTLEMENT. GOI HAD NOT ACCEPTED US "DICTATE" BUT HAD DEVELOPED ITS POSITION IN FRANK NEGOTIATIONS. ISRAEL'S CHOICE WAS BETWEEN LIKUD'S DOGMATISM (SEPTIL) BLOCKING ALL CHANCE OF PEACE AND LABOR ALIGNMENT'S READINESS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

9. COMMENT: MRS MEIR COULD USE SOME OF CONCRETE RESULTS TO SUPPORT GOI DECISION TO SIGN SIX POINT AGREEMENT. LABOR AND NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY KNESSET MEMBERS TOLD US THAT RAPID

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IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX POINT AGREEMENT--PARTICULARLY LIFTING OF BAB-EL-MANDEB BLOCKADE AND POW EXCHANGE--WAS ESSENTIAL IF GOI WAS TO RETAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.
KEATING

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